(v) Signal Circuit is being modified to ensure that the signal for next train cannot be lowered till the lever of starter and advanced starter lowered till the lever of starter and advanced starter lowered for the earlier train is put back to 'ON'.

(vi) A high level 'Safety Group' has been set up to suggest measures to further improve safety standards on Indian Railways.

(vii) In addition, on-going safety measures like counselling, inspections/checks, monitoring have been intensified.

Constitution of National Level Blood Council

1171. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 500 of the existing 1,100 blood banks in the country have been found to be unlicensed by a high powered committee appointed by the Supreme Court;

(b) whether it is also a fact that unless corrective action is taken immediately, blood banks in the country would become a source for the spread of the AIDS;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to grant license to all the existing blood banks in the country; and

(d) whether Government are considering to establish a national level blood council?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Necessary corrective measures have already been initiated to license all the blood banks in the country.

(c) Drugs Controller of India has already directed the State Drugs Controllers/FDAs to ensure that all the remaining Blood Banks in the country are licensed speedly.

(d) The matter is subjudice.

Exclusion in use of Technology

1172. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is facing any exclusion in the area of dual use technology exports of designs and processes that have sensitive application;

(b) if so, the specific areas affected;

(c) whether Indian Research Technical Organisation, Indian Industry and other venture capital institutions have done any mapping exercise to form a consortia to strengthen R&D; and

(d) if so, the details of the new research technology format evolved, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The country if facing exclusion in the area of imports of dual use technology of designs and processes that have sensitive applications. This is mainly because: our country is not a member of any of the four existing Ad-hoc Export Control Regimes set up by the nuclear weapon/missile powers, viz. Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Australia Group (AG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and COCOM/New Forum; our country is also not a party to the NPT nor has it accepted full-scope safeguards of its nuclear facilities; our country has an advanced missile programme; South Asia is viewed by the USA & other NATO countries as a war prone area; furthermore the NATO countries strongly seek to maintain their technological lead. Against this background, it is likely that our companies & laboratories would not have access to any or at best only some

so-called "dual-use" products and technologies, controlled by NATO member countries under the four Export Control Regimes, referred to above.

(c) and (d) Some Government departments have taken initiatives and launched R&D programmes for development of technologies having sensitive applications so as to become self-reliant, thereby eliminating the restrictions imposed by the highly industrialised counties.

Our Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has identified some critical items/technologies relevant to on-going and proposed major development programmes and has undertaken development of these items/ technologies through consortia of DRDO Laboratories, Academic institutions, R&D Laboratories in the non-Defence sector and Industry to ensure availability of the critical items/ technologies for defense programmes.

In the area of Electronics, the Department of Electronics (DOE) has also supported many projects in the area of Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) devices and Microwave devices which are needed for our defense programmes.

Autonomy of J & K

1173. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister, in his statement from Ouagadougous expressed Government's resolve to strengthen the autonomy in the State of Jammu & Kashmir for the three regions on and equal footing;

(b the principles and mechanism proposed to be invoked to translate this resolve into the legal and administrative framework; and

(c) whether the aforesaid principles and mechanism would be left to the State legislature or to the Union Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It would be pre-mature to indicate any details in this-regard at this stage. Further discussions and consultations with various groups, political parties etc. from the State and at the national level will be required to work these out.

Government's Commitment to Provide Compensation to Charar Victims

1174. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the financial commitment of Government for providing compensation/financial assistance to those persons/familes whose houses and shops were burnt/damaged in the Charar-e-Sharief incident, and also' for reconstruction of the Dargah complex;

(b) what is the amount spent/ disbursed so far; and

(c) what are the reasons for the slow progress of reconstruction of the Dargah complex and how the hurdles are proposed to be overcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Under the Standing State rules, the owner of an immovable property is entitled to ex-gratia relief @50% of the loss subject to a ceiling of Rs. One lac. In addition, a commitment was made from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to provide ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lac in each case for the loss of structure and an interim relief of Rs. 10,000/- to each family by way of immediate succour. No commitment of funds for reconstructior of Dargah proper was made by the Government as there was no demand foi doing so from the people. The Dargah i: under the management of J&K Muslin Auquaf Trust.

(b) The total amount disbursed so fa